

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1062

By Shaw

A RESOLUTION commending Gary N. Benmark for his distinguished service to Tennessee as 2009-2010 Governor of Rotary District 6760.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to salute those citizens who, though their remarkable efforts, have provided distinguished service to the State; and

WHEREAS, the strength of this State and the sense of community shared by its citizenry is fostered by the State's Rotary clubs and the many individuals who provide "Service Above Self" via the Rotary club community, State, and international projects; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Benmark, an esteemed resident of Joelton for many years, is the 2009-2010 Governor of Rotary District 6760 which encompasses half of Middle Tennessee and all of West Tennessee except for Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, while District Governor, Dr. Benmark has visited the sixty-three Rotary clubs of District 6760 at least once to discuss the Rotary International, District and club priorities; and

WHEREAS, District Governor Benmark has sponsored and participated in many District 6760 events during his year as Governor including District Assembly at Jackson, Youth Exchange Seminar at Dickson, Rotary Leadership Institutes at Brentwood and Jackson, Ethics Workshop at Belmont University in Nashville, Rotary Foundation Banquet at Martin, Group Study Exchange from Turkey visiting throughout Middle and West Tennessee, ABCs of Rotary Seminar at Martin, District Conference at Jackson, Youth Interact Leadership Seminar at Martin, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards at Clarksville; and

WHEREAS, he has participated in Rotary International Conventions in Los Angeles, Birmingham, England, and Montreal, Rotary International Governor-Elect Training in San Diego,

Rotary Zones 30-31 Institutes in Indianapolis and Tulsa, and Rotary Zone 30

Foundation/Membership Seminar in Decatur, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Benmark has served as a Rotary District 6760 Assistant Governor, was a member of the District 6760 Finance, Nomination, and Will R. Manier Scholarship Committees, and was an Executive Committee member of the Multi-State PETS (President Elect Training Seminar); and

WHEREAS, Governor Benmark is a Major Donor of The Rotary Foundation and a charter member of the District 6760 Paul Harris Society; and

WHEREAS, Governor Benmark, a current member of the Springfield Rotary Club, has had an exemplary record of attendance in four different Rotary clubs for several decades, has served in most Rotary club positions including club President on three separate occasions, and is a graduate of the District 6760 Rotary Leadership Academy and the Zone Rotary Leadership Institute; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, he joined the Trenton Rotary Club and, at that time, was thought to be the youngest Rotarian in the district and, in 1967, and while a member of the Trenton Rotary Club, led the District's first Group Study Exchange Team (paired with New South Wales, Australia); and

WHEREAS, in 2006, he participated in the Rotary Friendship Exchange program to the Western Australia Rotary District (Perth and other areas), hosted the Australian Rotarians when they visited District 6760 in 2007, and has actively participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange program, hosting young men from Germany, Argentina, and Brazil; and

WHEREAS, he holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Health Sciences from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. in Public Policy Administration from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, he has served in the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army, holds the rank of retired Colonel, obtained Top Secret Clearance, and graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Air War College, and the Logistics Executive Development Course; and

WHEREAS, he is retired from Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County Government where he held many positions including Juvenile Court Administrator, Assistant to the Mayor for Criminal Justice Programs, and Director of the Criminal Justice Planning Office; and

WHEREAS, for decades Dr. Benmark has been active in numerous community and government groups, has been a member of many Advisory Boards, and has received a wide variety of awards and recognitions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Benmark has demonstrated utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity and truly is an outstanding example of the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dr. Gary Benmark for his outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit, and extend our gratitude for his contributions to this State as 2009-2010 Rotary District 6760 Governor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.